

Election: Does God Choose? The Donelson Men in Christ

Mankind has sinned. *All* have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). As a result, we are a "sin" sick in our creation on a planet in rebellion. Sin has brought four terrible results or effects in our lives:

- A. Death: Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3
- B. Dread: Genesis 3:10; Psalm 139:7-12; Revelation 6:12-17
- C. Distance: Genesis 3:23-24; Ephesians 2:12
- D. Disinclination/depravity/ inclined to evil: Genesis 6:5; Ephesians 4:18-19

Without God's intervention for us, we would all be lost. God elected first to create us (Genesis 1:25). Then God willed to purify us.

Word meanings:

Justification:	When we are made right (just) before God's laws = the books balance
Salvation:	Act of being rescued
Sanctification:	The act of being cleansed
Redemption:	That which was lost is reclaimed

Father – Our redemption is by the Father. He is the source of the divine plan. Jesus made it clear that all his words and deeds were really those of the Father. Only God draws us to the Son (Matthew 11:27). God suffered in the Son. He produced our salvation. See John 3:16 16:27; Romans 8:3, 32; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 John 4:10-14; Jude 1

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 *Now all that exists is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, that God was in Christ reconciling creation to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has entrusted to us the word of reconciliation.*

Son – We could write volumes on Jesus' role in salvation. It is by the Son ... on Calvary (Matthew 20:28; John 1:29; Galatians 1:4, 3:13, 6:14; Ephesians 1:7, 2:13, 5:25-27, Colossians 1:20, 2:14-15, 1 Timothy 2:6; Titus 2:14, Hebrews 2:14-15, 9:26, 10:10, 13:10-12; 1 Peter 1:18-20, 2:21-25, 3:18, 1 John 3:8)

Colossians 2:9 *In him (Christ), physically, lives divinity in all its fullness,*

... and on the throne (Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:9, 2:22-36; Hebrews 1:3-4; 1 John 2:1-2). All references to the Lamb in Revelation are to Jesus' active salvation role.

Holy Spirit – He is the reality *God in us! (Joel 2:28, 29; Isaiah 44:3; Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-21; Romans 8) So we baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Romans 8:9-11 *You, however, live not by your flesh, but by the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Indeed, anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ that one is not Christ's. But when Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin but the spirit is alive because you are made righteous; if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead indwells you, then he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit in you.*

Truths:

Ephesians 1:2-14 *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. He chose/elected us in Christ before the foundation of creation to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the his good, pleasing will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the One of his love. In him we have deliverance through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. In harmony with his pleasing goodness, that he set forth in Christ, he has made us to know all wisdom and perception of the mystery of his will. This is his plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things, things in heaven and things on earth, in Christ. In him we have also obtained our inheritance, being destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your liberation, placed your faith in him, and were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit; this is the guarantee of our inheritance forward to redemption as God's own people – all of this to the praise of his glory.*

There may be no subject more divisive and none that causes greater controversy than the issue of election. Among the denominations that make up Christianity there are many who believe that God has chosen who will ultimately be saved. They are, by that, elected by God to be his people and therefore they can be called “the chosen people.” Many who do not believe in this form of predestination do in fact hold that God made a covenant with Abraham in which the descendants of Jacob/Israel became the elect people. Not all of the descendants of Abraham are the elect but only those who descent from Jacob. In today’s confused world there are others who will teach that it is “the Jews” who are chosen without understanding that when they say such a thing they have now said that only one of the twelve tribes of Israel is the chosen. That of course is not found anywhere in scripture. All of the Hebrews would include all of the twelve tribes and it is improper to speak of the Jews as chosen